

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 020948  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON:SLB

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S-O:AOTTO

-----292220Z 113720 /62

O 292208Z JAN 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 020948

NODIS

FOL RPT DAMASCUS 0636 ACTION SECSTATE 28 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0636

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: ASF DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 19280

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM WAS CONDUCTING TALKS WITH VISITING SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA THIS AFTERNOON AND COULD NOT RECEIVE MY DEPUTY UNTIL 1930 LOCAL. AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO PRESENTATION, HE FIRST ASKED THAT HIS REGARDS BE TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARY ALONG WITH HIS THANKS FOR SHARING WITH SYRIA THE US CONTACTS WITH PRES. SARKIS REGARDING

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PRESENCE OF ASF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. KHADDAM THEN CONFIRMED THAT WHILE NO SYRIAN RESPONSE WAS REQUIRED SINCE U.S. MESSAGE DIRECTED TO PRES. SARKIS, HE NEVERTHELESS FELT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT AT ISRAEL'S ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LEBANON, AS INDEPENDENT STATE AND MEMBER OF THE UNITED

NATIONS. "WE HAVE NEVER HEARD LEBANON COMPLAIN OF PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FORCES NEAR LEBANON'S SOUTHERN BORDERS, SO ON WHAT BASIS DOES ISRAEL COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON - WHICH IS PART OF THE ARAB NATION - ASSUMING FUNCTIONS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND UNDER ORDERS OF PRESIDENT OF LEBANON?"

3. ISRAEL, KHADDAM CHARGED, WANTS TO EXPLOIT PRESENT MOMENT WHILE NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO CREATE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WILL FRUSTRATE MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE AND PREVENT USG FROM PLAYING ITS ROLE IN THIS PROCESS JUST AT TIME WHEN IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN REGION FAVOR MOVEMENT TOWARD A JUST PEACE MORE THAN AT ANYTIME IN PAST. IT IS ALSO CLEAR, KHADDAM OBSERVED, THAT ANY ACT OF BELLIGERENCY OCCURING IN THE REGION OR ANY ATTEMPT TO OCCUPY TERRITORY WOULD DESTROY THE POSSIBILITY OF MOMEMENT TOWARD PEACE, LEAVING WAR THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

4. AS MEETING CLOSED, KHADDAM ASKED INTERPRETER/NOTE TAKER TO PREPARE REPORT OF MESSAGE AND HIS RESPONSE FOR DELIVERY TO PRES. ASAD EARLY SATURDAY MORNING.  
MURPHY

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TROOP CONCENTRATION, PEACE PLANS  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, IS, LE, US, AL, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009